

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 9, 11, and 15 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The independent claims recite, among other features:

(a) a connection information definition block in which the relationship of logical connection between the computer and a logical volume included in the disk device or a logical area in a logical volume is defined; and

(b) an input/output execution control block that controls, based on the definition, whether the computer can access a logical volume included in the disk device or a logical area in a logical volume.

According to the claimed invention, in addition to a logical volume included in the disk device, a logical area in a logical volume can be set as an object to be accessed. Further, it is checked whether a computer can be accessed before the computer accesses the object of access.

The dependent claims recite additional patentable features. For example, claim 16 recites that the input/output management system comprises:

(c) if an access key is not appended to an input/output request issued by the computer, the computer is treated as fully disconnected;

(d) if an access key is appended to an input/output request issued by the computer and if the access key is larger than the connected state value, input/output for the input/output request is disabled; and

(e) if an access key is appended to an input/output request issued by the computer and if the access key is equal to or smaller than the connected state value, input/output for the input/output request is enabled.

Hubis et al. discloses a connection information definition block in which is defined the relationship of a logical volume included in the disk device which is an object to be accessed. However, unlike the present invention, Hubis et al. does not teach a connection information definition block in which is defined the relationship relating to a logical area in the logical volume to be accessed.

McIlroy et al. discloses an access control system of every unit of a file. However, unlike the present invention, McIlroy does not teach a connection information definition block in which is defined the relationship relating to a logical area in the logical volume to be accessed. Moreover, McIlroy et al. does not teach any means for checking whether a computer can be accessed before the computer accesses the subject of access.\

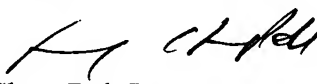
According to dependent claims 16-20 of the present application, there is an access key for controlling connection by a connected state value. The state value is a numerical value ranging between a minimum value and a maximum value, the maximum value signifying that the computer is fully connected, the minimum value signifying that the computer is fully disconnected, an intermediate value between the maximum value and the minimum value signifying a conditionally connected state for the computer. This feature is also absent from the references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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